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கின்றன. அதைப் பார்த்தால் காட்டு இலாகாவுக்கு அதிகமாக வருமானம் கிடைக்கிறது என்பது தெரியவரும். அதிலே ஒன்றும் பயன்படுத்த முடியாமல் இருக்கும் நிலமாய் இருந்தால் வேறு என்ன செய்ய முடியுமோ அதைச் செய்து வருகிறோம்.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Questions are over.

[Note.—An asterisk (*)at the Commencement of a speech indicates revision by the member.]

II.—POINT OF INFORMATION *re* QUESTIONS.

* Sri K. VINAYAKAM: Sir, I rise on a point of information

Sir, we are sitting for the last time before the General Elections I believe we would not sit again for another session till we get elected and come back again to the House or defeated. I would like to know how many questions have been admitted so far, whether all of them would be placed before the House for any interpellation and how many would lapse. Because I have sent a large number of questions, I am asking this. How many answers have been received from the several Departments, how many would be placed before the House and how many would lapse? May I know this information from the Chair, Sir.? 9-00 a.m.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The information will be furnished on Monday, as it is not readily available with me now.

* Sri T. S. RAMASWAMI: Generally, 35 to 45 questions are answered during question-hour. Today only 18 questions were allowed. Is it due to dearth of questions from Members or delay in respect of replies from the departments of the Secretariat? Several Members have given notice of several questions. Generally, question hour is for one hour in every Assembly. To-day we have not sat even for one-hour for questions. What exactly is the reason for this?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Some of the Hon. Ministers had gone on tour. At the same time we have not received replies from the departments of the Secretariat. It has been delayed. That is why many questions have not been included in the list of questions.

Sri T. S. RAMASWAMI: We have hardly eight or ten days more. I think there are still hundreds of questions pending with the departments. In fact, if I remember right, in the Rules Committee's sittings at Ootacamund it was decided that if within a month of sending notice to the department concerned, the reply was not received, it should be included in the list of questions for the day. I want to know whether that understanding arrived at is being kept up?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Speaker has got power to extend the time, if necessary. If the department wants time, the Speaker extends the time.

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SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : I know that the Speaker has a right to extend the time-limit. But the understanding arrived at in Ootacamund was that if within a month the reply was not received, it should be included in the list of questions for a day. This matter was discussed at Ootacamund and the above was the understanding arrived at. Otherwise it would lead to undue delay.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall read from what happened at the Rules Committee meeting held at Ootacamund.

" Sri T. S. Ramaswami moved that the second proviso of rule 34 be deleted. Explaining the object of his amendment he stated that there was enormous delay in the members' getting replies for important questions. If the proviso was omitted, all questions pending with the departments for more than 14 days would have to be automatically included in the list of questions for a day. The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam pointed out that there was no delay on the part of the Secretariat Departments. When they had to collect information from the Heads of Departments and other officers in the districts, it took some time. If they agreed to delete the proviso, as suggested by Sri T. S. Ramaswami, it would not improve matters. Because, when they had not received full information from the departments, they would have to send a reply to the Legislature Department to the effect ' The information asked for by the hon. Member is being collected.' If that answer could satisfy the members, he had no objection to accepting the amendment suggested by Sri T. S. Ramaswami. He suggested that the Speaker might extend the time by one week in in the first instance and that if the departments wanted further extension the Speaker might give another weeks' time. The Speaker said that the Hon. Minister's suggestion would be kept in mind. Sri T. S. Ramaswami then did not press his amendment."

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : How far has the Hon. Minister's suggestion been kept up, I would like to know.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : As far as possible.

III.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *re* CUT IN SUGAR PRODUCTION.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have received notice of an adjournment motion from the hon. Member Sri A. Govindasamy to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, viz., ten per cent cut in sugar production on account of which sugar producers and sugarcane growers have been affected much.

I would like to inform the hon. Member that a statement was made by the Hon. Minister yesterday and further that the hon. Member has got an opportunity to discuss this matter during the ensuing discussion on the budget. So I do not give my consent to the hon. Member to raise this adjournment motion.